

VERMONT CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION
ESTABLISHING PERMANENT VEGETATION ON DIKES
DAMS, POND BANKS, AND LEVEES

Establishing permanent vegetative cover on steep banks is necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. These sites are normally difficult to seed with normal field seeding methods.¹

Specifications

1. Site Preparation: Where possible, slope and smooth land to a 1.5:1 slope (1.5 horizontal feet for 1 vertical foot) or flatter. Flatter slopes such as 3:1 are preferred to facilitate equipment use.
2. Fertilization: Apply fertilizer and lime according to soil test recommendations. In lieu of soil test, fertilize with 500 lbs/acre (11.5 lbs/1000 sq. ft.) of 10-20-20. Where possible, incorporate lime and fertilizer into the top 2 inches of soil.
3. Seeding procedures: Seed using one of the mixtures listed below:

A. UNMOWED CONDITION

Seed	lbs./Acre	lbs./1000 sq. ft.	Soil Drainage
Smooth Bromegrass	15	.33	Well to moderately well
Ryegrass	5	.10	
Birdsfoot Trefoil	5	.10	
Creeping red fescue	10	.25	Excessively to moderately well
Tall fescue	15	.33	
Crownvetch	15	.33	
Reed canarygrass ²	15	.33	Moderately well to poorly
Creeping foxtail	5	.10	
Redtop	5	.10	
Birdsfoot trefoil	10	.25	
Creeping red fescue	20	.45	Excessively to moderately well
Redtop	2	.10	
Crownvetch	15	.33	
Birdsfoot trefoil	8	.20	Excessively to moderately well
Crownvetch	15	.33	
Creeping red fescue	20	.50	

¹ Use this jobsheet for seeding banks with loamy or clayey soils only. For detail on vegetating sandy or gravelly areas, see VT SCS publication "Vegetating Vermont Sand and Gravel Pits".

² Use only Reed canarygrass with a germination rate of 70% or better that has been tested within the past 4 or 5 months.

B. MOWED CONDITION

Seed	lbs./Acre	lbs./1000 sq. ft.	Soil Drainage
Kentucky Bluegrass	20	.50	Well to moderately well
Creeping red fescue	20	.50	
Ryegrass	5	.10	
Creeping red fescue	20	.50	Well to moderately well
Tall fescue	20	.50	
Birdsfoot trefoil	8	.20	
Creeping red fescue	20	.50	Moderately well to poorly
Redtop	2	.10	
Tall fescue	20	.50	
Creeping red fescue	20	.50	Well to moderately well
Redtop	2	.10	
Birdsfoot trefoil	8	.20	
Tall fescue	20	.50	Well to poorly
Reed canarygrass	10	.25	
Redtop	3	.10	

C. RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

Birdsfoot trefoil Empire
Creeping foxtail Garrison
Creeping red fescue Ensylva
Crownvetch Penngift/Chemung
Redtop Common
Reed canarygrass Palaton, Venture
Ryegrass Pennfine
Smooth brome grass Saratoga/Baylor
Tall fescue Ky-31

Cover grass and/or legume seed with 1/4 inch of soil unless a hydroseeder is used. Many failures result from poor seed-soil contact. Cultipacking or tracking the site with a dozer will improve the speed and uniformity of germination.

Inoculate legume seed (birdsfoot trefoil, crownvetch) at two times the rate prescribed by seed dealer immediately prior to the seeding: four times if hydroseeded.

4. Time of Seeding: Early spring until June 1 and from August 15 to September 15.
5. Mulching: Mulching is critical. Use a minimum of 50 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. or 1 - 2 tons per acre of straw or hay. Weed free mulch should be used.